



Lifeline Modernization

October 7, 2015

WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90

TOM KOUTSKY

Chief Policy Counsel

Connected Nation, Inc.



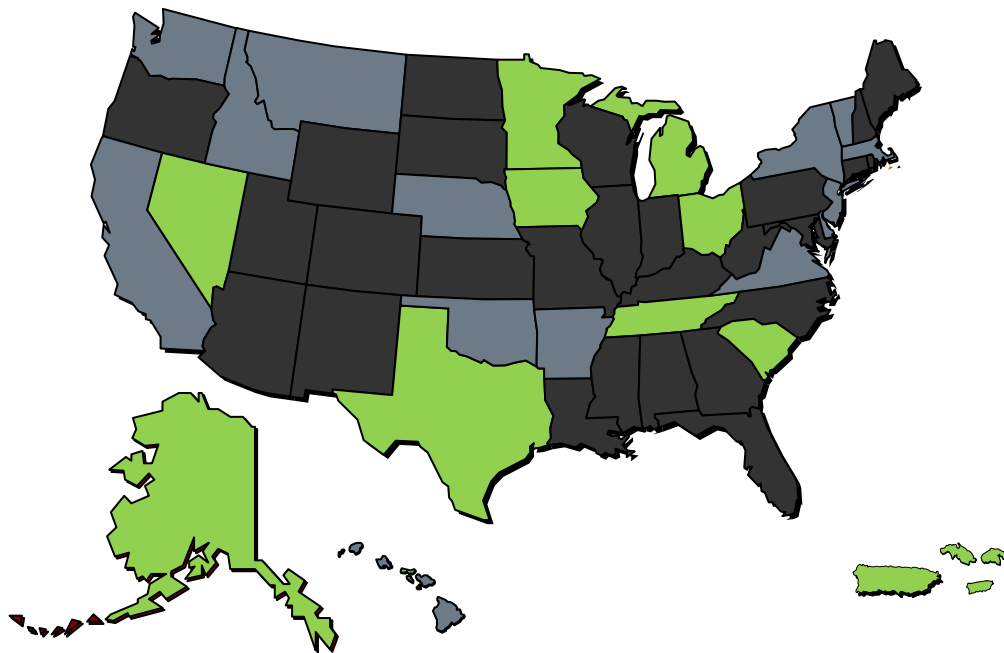
Agenda

- ✓ Overview
- ✓ Community Institution Proposal
- ✓ Implementation Issues
- ✓ Technology Transitions and Access to Data



CN Background

- **10** state-based broadband public-private partnerships, from Alaska to Puerto Rico, impacting **876 counties**
- Residential adoption survey research in **9 states and Puerto Rico**
- BTOP adoption grant programs in Ohio and Tennessee
- *Drive* digital literacy initiative employed in Lifeline broadband pilots (<http://driveyourlearning.org>)
- Workforce training initiatives in Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky
- **171 communities** actively engaged in local technology planning activities
- Library-focused initiatives in an additional **13 states** in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation





Turning Unemployed into Digital Workers

- Establish location in conjunction with community
- Outreach to long-term unemployed
- Offer training and workspace
- Online training platform
- Match trained with employers
- 13 locations – 8 in Ohio, 3 in Kentucky, 1 in Michigan, 1 in Texas
- 500 jobs created

<http://www.digitalworksjobs.com>



Reeb Avenue Branch Opening, Columbus, Ohio,
September 25, 2015



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Connected Nation Lifeline Comments

1. Community Institutions and Training Matter – to make progress in broadband adoption we need to *reach people where they are*.
2. Cost is an important barrier to adoption, but not the only one.
3. Lifeline program administration needs to be improved – the current provider-based qualification method makes integrating community institution outreach and training exceptionally difficult, even when the provider wants to make it work.
4. Do not unintentionally create “qualification gaps.”

Si tienes 55 años o más y quieres aprender a usar los Teléfonos Inteligentes y las Tabletas...

¡Este Curso es para ti!

La Junta Reglamentadora de Telecomunicaciones de Puerto Rico te invita a aprender sobre las ventajas de navegar por internet, usar redes sociales y maximizar su uso. A través del curso introductorio de TecnoAbuelos, aprenderás de forma sencilla a usar y comunicarte a través de los teléfonos inteligentes y las tabletas. Comunícate con familiares y amigos, aprende a buscar información sobre noticias, salud, pasatiempos y mucho más. Explora, diviértete y mantén tu mente activa usando la tecnología.

TECNO
abuelos.com
"Conectando generaciones"

Mayo 18-22	Mayo 26-27	Junio 2-10
• Utuado, mayo 18	• Barranquitas, mayo 26	• Vieques, junio 2
• Sabana Grande, mayo 20	• Orocuiva, mayo 27	• Culebra, junio 3
• Cabo Rojo, mayo 20	• Morovis, mayo 27	• Coamo, junio 10
• Guánica, mayo 22		

Trae tu Teléfono Inteligente y/o Tableta. Espacios limitados. **PRIS** Puerto Rico Internet Service

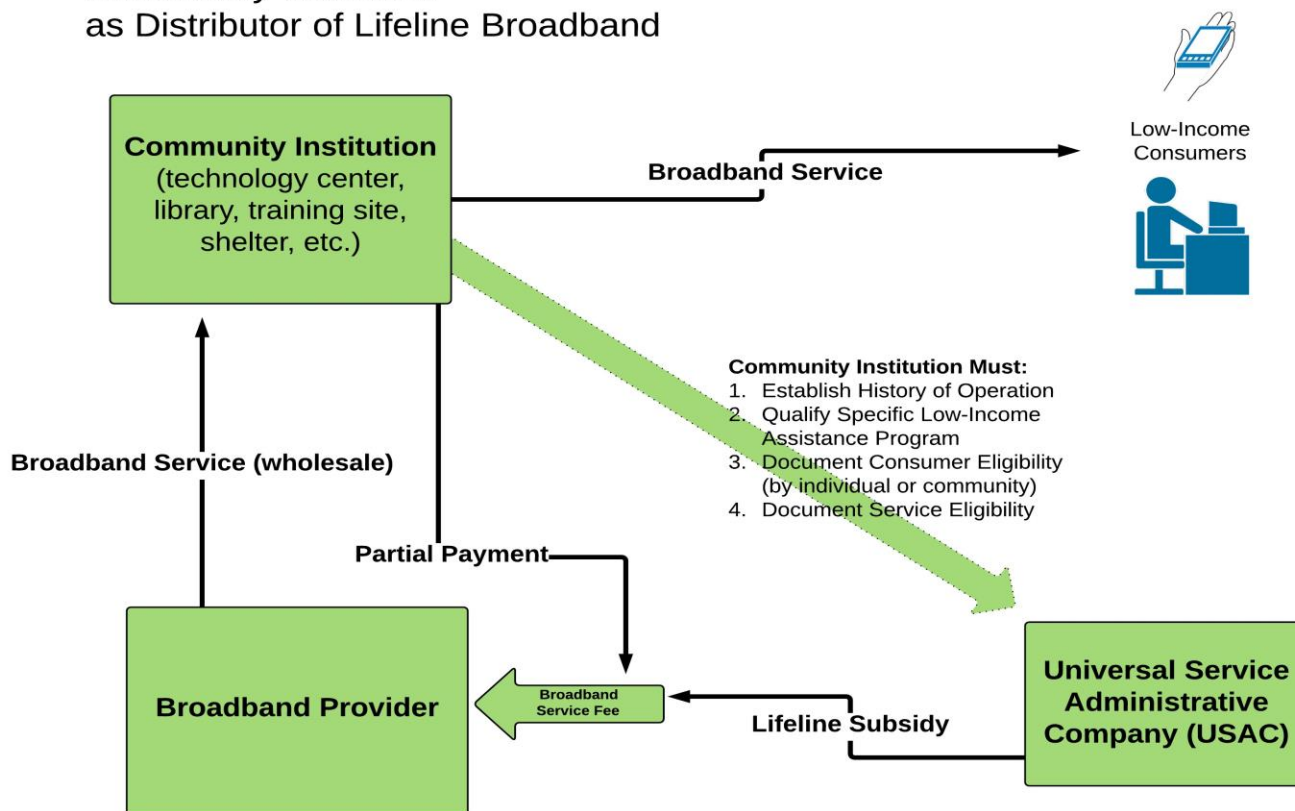
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Community Institution Proposal

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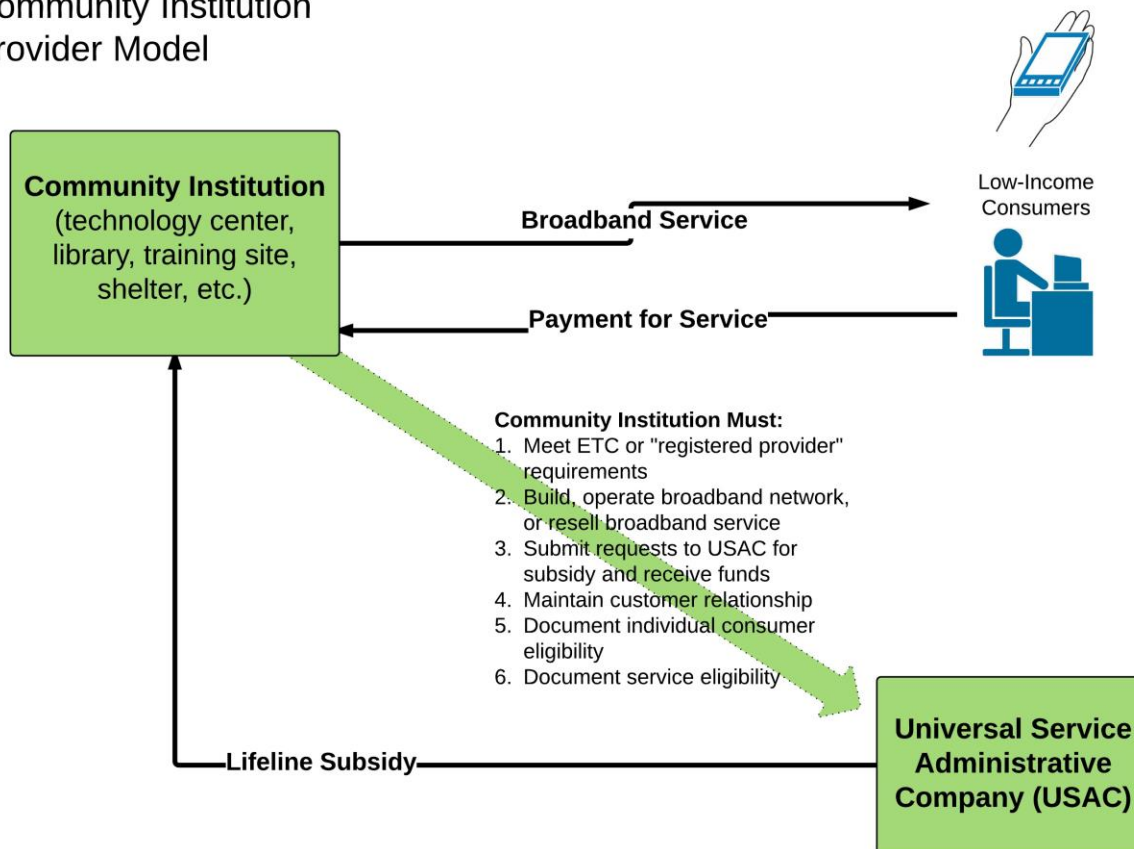
Figure 1
Community Institution
as Distributor of Lifeline Broadband





Community Institution Proposal (cont.)

Figure 2
Community Institution
Provider Model





Distribution Model

- ✓ Quick to Implement
 - ✓ Provider network and service infrastructure in place
 - ✓ Community institutions need not be ETCs to participate (though they should be allowed to if they desire)
 - ✓ Several existing programs (e.g., Wi-Fi hotspot check-out)
- ✓ More community institutions can take advantage
- ✓ Increase social value of broadband use
 - ✓ Remote health monitoring offered by community health center
- ✓ Economies of scale in purchasing
 - ✓ Savings would inure to Lifeline fund
- ✓ Promotes additional community institution services (training, outreach, device distribution programs) by supporting ongoing connectivity



Implementation

- ✓ Third-Party Validation and Verification Process
- ✓ Qualifying for the Program
 - ✓ *Community Institution* = state/local agency, non-profit, community center, service agency, shelter
 - ✓ Require community service experience and program to target low-income population
 - ✓ Connectivity purchase from a qualifying provider (ETC or successor)
- ✓ Reimbursement Choice
 - ✓ Institution can choose to document individual recipients as qualifying, or
 - ✓ Employ Community Eligibility by applying community poverty rate to Lifeline support



No Qualification Gaps

- ✓ Limiting Lifeline qualification to SNAP and NSLP qualification would be devastating to Puerto Rico – as neither operate in the territory
- ✓ **2 million broadband non-adopters** in Puerto Rico – only 11 states have more residents without broadband
- ✓ Qualifying for federal nutrition assistance in Puerto Rico (NAP block grant) requires income *one-quarter to one-third* of federal poverty rate
- ✓ Puerto Rico needs:
 - ✓ Independent income verification process
 - ✓ To work together with NLAD and national third-party verifier, to make the PR Lifeline Fund efficient and complementary to federal Lifeline
 - ✓ Accommodation for different availability of federal assistance programs



Questions?

Tom Koutsky

tkoutsky@connectednation.org

202-674-8409